

I. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the Specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 27 and ending on page 2, line 3 as follows:

(2) The way to make payment in cash in exchange for a product requires increased service fees because payment is made by a home-delivery service agent. This increases the transaction fee.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 20 and ending on page 8, line 2 as follows:

The transaction-detail registering unit 1a of the transaction supporting apparatus 1 receives the details of the transaction and registers these details therein. Then, the payment information notifying unit 1b refers to the details of the transaction and produces payment information containing a bank account to which payment should be made and a deadline for ~~payment-making~~ the payment. Then, the payment information notifying unit 1b delivers the payment information to the buyer client 4 via an e-mail or the like.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 11, beginning on line 9 and ending on line 13 as follows:

The network 11 may, for example, be the Internet. The network 17 may, for example, be the Internet or a dedicated line. The servers 12, 13, 15 and 16 may, for example, be workstations or server machines. The client 14 of the buyer may, for example, be a personal computer.

Please replace the paragraph on page 16, beginning on line 24 and ending on page 17, line 8 as follows:

As described in the ~~e-main~~e-mail shown in FIG. 9, the buyer which has received the products is requested to remit the amount to the specified bank account within a specified period which may, for example, be one week. If the payment has been made within the specified period, the transaction supporting apparatus 10 detects the payment in periodical access to the bank server 15, and acknowledges the completion of payment. Then, the transaction supporting apparatus 10 accesses the bank server 15 again and remits the amount obtained by subtracting

its own fee from the amount that has been remitted to the account of the buyer.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 20, beginning on line 4 and ending on line 7 as follows:

The process following the above is the same as that executed at the time of the first transaction except for the authentication procedure by the home-delivery service agent.

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 20, beginning on line 8 and ending on line 22 as follows:

As described above, in each transaction after the first transaction via the transaction supporting apparatus 10, the buyer can promptly order products ~~to~~from a seller who cooperates with the apparatus 10 by merely entering his or her own membership number and password. This avoids a risk of repetitive entry of important individual information such as the card number. Even if the membership number or the like leaks, a person who gets the individual information will not be able to utilize it to promote his or her own benefit because the delivery destination is limited to the place on the map shown in FIG. 10. Also, the payment of the purchased products is remitted to the specified bank account, which avoids expensive service fees that are charged when the credit card is used.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 20, line 26 and ending on page 21, line 3 as follows:

There is no need to include a card commission in the price of products. This would reduce the sale prices. Even startup companies, which are generally not allowed to make registration in card companies, can utilize the convenience of settlement using credit cards.

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 21, beginning on line 12 and ending on line 24 as follows:

In the membership registration of the embodiment, the buyer enters his or her address on the screen 50 shown in FIG. 7 as character information. Alternatively, a map may be displayed on the screen as in the case of FIG. 10, on which map the buyer points to his or her address. A person ~~attempts~~attempting to illegally use address information that is entered this way will have to get obtain ~~information about~~ both map information and information about the location on the map. This would reduce the probability of leakage of information. Also, the way to ~~entry~~enter the address on the map would be advantageous to the home-delivery service agent

because it facilitates identifying the location of the delivery destination more specifically.

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 22, beginning on line 17 and ending on line 21 as follows:

In the foregoing, payment is made by remittance to the bank account. Alternatively, other means for making payment to the ~~buyer~~seller or the intermediary agent include through a convenience store, a postal office or a registered cash mail.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 24, line 19 and ending on page 25, line 6 as follows:

The delivery destination is specified by only the address registered in the credit card or membership registration. When a person having the membership has performed a transaction at least once, this person would gain credit with the intermediary agent. Therefore, purchased products may be delivered to a place which the buyer would like in each transaction after the first transaction. In this case, as shown in FIG. 15, information about the address of a delivery destination and other necessary items are entered on a screen 77. In the example of FIG. 15, the user can choose the registered address of the membership (77a) or any preferred address (77b). When the latter is chosen, the purchased products are delivered to the destination specified by the items of information that are entered ~~to~~in text boxes 77c through 77e.

Please amend the second full paragraph on page 25, beginning on line 13 and ending on line 15 as follows:

A description will now be given of flowcharts describing a program that causes the transaction supporting apparatus 10 to implement the above-mentioned functions.

Please amend the fourth full paragraph on page 25, beginning on line 21 and ending on line 25 as follows:

[S1] The CPU 10a determines whether a request for intermediary service ~~offer~~for the transaction has been received. If the answer of step S1 is YES, the CPU 10a proceeds to step S2. In contrast, if the answer of step S1 is NO, the CPU 10a ends the process.

Please amend the first full paragraph on page 27, beginning on line 2 and ending on line 5 as follows:

If the answer of step S22 is successively NO a predetermined number of times, the CPU 10a preferably terminates the process in order to prevent the CPU 10a from falling ininto an infinite loop.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 28, beginning on line 1 and ending on line 3 as follows:

If the answer is successively NO a predetermined number of times, the CPU 10a ends the process in order to prevent the CPU 10a from falling ininto an infinite loop.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 29, beginning on line 2 and ending on line 6 as follows:

[S40] The CPU ~~40a~~10a determines whether the transaction of interest has been performed for the first time by the buyer. If the answer of this step is YES, the CPU 10a proceeds to step S41. If the answer is NO, the CPU 10a proceeds to step S42.